

I am writing this message to express my concern over potential new regulations regarding satellite radio broadcasts. I live in a semi-rural in the mountains, but commute to the city daily. Due to the topography, I cannot receive the local stations on my commute. Once I am outside of the metro area, I lose almost all of the local stations, and the ones I do get are barely audible and contain programming I do not care for.

While at present time there is no Denver traffic/weather channel offered on satellite radio, I look forward to it. Being able to keep up to date on changing road/weather conditions is invaluable. Just today I tried to get the local traffic once I got into town and had to wait through close to 15 minutes of mediocre programming and several commercials. By the time I finally heard the traffic, it was too late, I was in the traffic I was trying to avoid. I skipped around on both AM and FM stations, only to find no one station dedicated the time necessary anyway to get the traffic information out in a timely manner.

The programming on local stations in the metro area is dry and boring. While I only listen to a handful of the satellite stations, they consist of music and content my family and I love. Being able to choose what I want to listen to I feel is a consumer right. Yes, I have to pay for the service, but the ability to choose commercial free, non-stop music stations is well worth it. I no longer have to listen to what Billboard or the top 40 stations say is "in." Of course other talk stations, comedy channels, and other content make it, at least to me, one of the best new technologies of this decade, if not in the past 50 years of radio broadcasting.

My last point is this; Why should satellite radio entertainment be held to a different standard than TV? I also pay for my Satellite TV, and can choose commercial free stations, as well as get local content, from a national provider. Just a thought.

Please to not allow the NAB's petition 04-160 to pass. Doing so would also hurt the consumers in the end.

Thank you for your time,

Chad M Smith